

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 02181 131425Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 IGA-02 SAJ-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /091 W

----- 076251

R 121815Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7499

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 2181

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, ML

SUBJ: PRC AID - MANANTALI DAM

REF (A) BAMAKO AIRGRAM 001, JAN. 4, 1973 (B) MEMCON FEB 16,

1973 (C) HONG KONG 6448 (D) NOUAKCHOTT 174

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S LONG AWAITED VISIT TO THE PRC WERE WELL COVERED BY THE MALIAN MEDIA AS WAS EXPECTED. HOWEVER, NO SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE OF A PRC COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THE MANANTALI DAM OR ANY OTHER PROJECT ALTHOUGH THE SIGNING OF THE JUNE 24 CONVENTION WAS NOTED. WHILE THERE MAY BE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, INDIRECT EVIDENCE INDICATE THAT GOM HAS MADE NO HEADWAY IN MAKING THE PREVIOUS PRC PROMISE IN PRINCIPLE TO FINANCE MANANTALI A REALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE MALI VIEWS THE PRC AS ITS MODEL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NO ONE HERE WAS SURPRISED BY THE ABUNDANT COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S RECENT VISIT TO THE PRC, NOR WAS ANYONE SURPRISED BY THE BOOSTER, OR EVEN SYNCOPHANTIC, IMAGE OF THE PRC GIVEN IN THE MALIAN PRESS DURING AND AFTER PRESIDENT TRAORE'S VISIT. MUCH WAS MADE OF COMMON SINO-MALIAN POLITICAL POSITIONS ON RACISM, COLONIALISM, ISRAEL, ETC. BUT ASIDE FROM THIS, PRINTING OF PUBLIC SPEECHES DESCRIBING ENDLESS CEREMONIES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMAKO 02181 131425Z

AND SIGNING OF A CONVENTION FO ECONOMIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON

JUNE 24, THE MALIAN PRESS HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT SPECIFIC AID PROGRAMS INCLUDING MANANTALI DAM. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS HAVE MADE INFORMAL INQUIRIES, HAVE RECEIVED NO DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT MANANTALI. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OFFS HAVE HEARD SECONDHAND THAT GOM RECEIVED NOTHING FROM PRC RE MANATALI OR THAT PRC AGREED TO SEND TEAM TO STUDY SITE. THIS WOULD BE THIRD MANANTALI STUDY TEAM THAT PRC HAS FIELDDED HERE. AS REPORTED IN REF B, PRC MAY HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF MANANTALI AS WELL AS DOUBTS ABOUT THE POLITICAL PAYOFF FOR AN INVESTMENT OF 125.4 MILLION DOLLARS (REF D) SINCE MALI IS BETTER KNOWN FOR PURSUING INDEPENDENT AND PRAGMATIC POLICIES THAN FOR HER ACKNOWLEDGED AFFINITY FOR THE PRC.

3. EMBASSY ACKNOWLEDGES POSSIBILITY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHINESE FINANCING OF MANANTALI IN NEAR FUTURE, I.E. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN PEKING BUT DETAILS NOW BEING HAMMERED OUT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CHINESE INTEREST IN MANANTALI HAS WANED ALTHOUGH THEY STILL WANT TO BE ACTIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH PROJECT, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR MALI'S DEVELOPMENT. THINK THAT CHINESE WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY PROJECT AND STRING GOM ALONGS INDEFINITELY, AND THUS CONTINUE TO REAP POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. SINCE NO OTHER DONOR HAS OFFERED TO FINANCE MAJOR SHARE OF MANANTALI COMPLEX, GOM IS FORCED TO PLAY CHINESE GAME.
KUNIHOLM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAMAKO02181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KUNIHOLM
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730739/aaaabcho.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BAMAKO A-1
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC AID - MANANTALI DAM
TAGS: EAID, ML
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005